

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Independent claims 6 and 7 are currently being prosecuted without further amendments. Claims 1-5 and 8-13 were previously cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over CN 2031615 in view of Tani et al. (U.S. 6,457,475). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 6 and 7 as previously presented is not taught or suggested by the combination of references cited by the Examiner, including CN 2031615 and Tani et al. (U.S. 6,457,475).

COMMENTS

The cigarette filter as recited in claim 6 comprises filter sections including filter materials individually wrapped with plug wrap paper; forming paper for wrapping the filter sections integrally; and tipping paper covering the forming paper so as to connect the filter sections to a cigarette section to form a cigarette, wherein three filter materials are provided, and activated charcoal is dispersed in one filter material and silica/alumina is dispersed in another filter material.

The cigarette filter as recited in claim 7 comprises a cigarette holder body including filter materials arranged therein, wherein two filter materials are provided, and a mixture of

activated charcoal and silica/alumina is loaded in a space between the two filter materials or is dispersed in one of the filter materials.

The cigarette filter of the present invention produces a synergetic effects of removing specific components: pyrazines and phenols contained in mainstream smoke by the combination of two specific types of the absorbents: activated charcoal and silica/alumina (see Table 1 and the description thereof).

On the other hand, CN 2031615 merely discloses “a filter which comprises two absorbent sections” and that “the absorbent sections can comprise activated carbon, zeolites, and any number of substances alone or in a mixture of two or more”.

However, CN 2031615 does not disclose the combination of two specific types of the absorbents: activated charcoal and silica/alumina. Further, CN 2031615 does not suggest the advantage of the present invention that is the synergetic effect of removing specific components: pyrazines and phenols contained in mainstream smoke. Therefore, the present invention could not have been obvious over CN 2031615 and Tani et al.

CONCLUSION

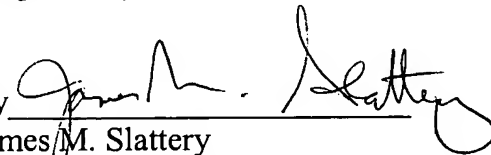
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen at (703) 208-4030 (direct line) in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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